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Claims

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1. A method of determining the severity of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in a patient which comprises measuring the concentration of soluble E-cadherin in a sample of the patient's urine and/or blood serum and determining the extent of severity by reference to a correlation graph which correlates Forced Expiratory Volume in the first second of expiration (FEV1) with soluble E-cadherin concentration.
  2. A method according to claim 1 comprising measuring the concentration of soluble E-cadherin in a sample of the patient's blood serum.
  3. A method according to claim 1 comprising measuring the concentration of soluble E-cadherin in a sample of the patient's urine.
  4. A method according to claims 1 and 2 which comprises measuring the concentration of soluble E-cadherin in a sample of the patient's blood serum and urine.
  5. A method of treating a patient suffering from COPD which comprises determining the extent of the disease by identifying the levels of soluble E-cadherin in a sample of the patient's blood serum and/or urine followed by administration of a compound which ameliorates the symptoms of the disease.
  6. A method according to claim 5 comprising identifying the concentration of soluble E-cadherin in a sample of the patient's blood serum.
  7. A method according to claim 5 comprising identifying the concentration of soluble E-cadherin in a sample of the patient's urine.
  8. A method according to claim 5 comprising identifying the levels of soluble E-cadherin in a sample of the patient's blood serum and urine.

AMENDED SHEET

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9. A method of determining the responsiveness of a patient with COPD to therapy which comprises monitoring the concentration of soluble E-cadherin in a sample of the patient's blood serum and/or urine with time and determining the rate of change of extent of progression of the disease by reference to a correlation graph which correlates FEV1 with soluble E-cadherin concentration.
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10. A method according to claim 9 comprising monitoring the concentration of soluble E-cadherin in a sample of the patient's urine.
11. A method according to claim 9 comprising monitoring the concentration of soluble E-cadherin in a sample of the patient's blood serum.
12. A method according to claim 9 comprising monitoring the concentration of soluble E-cadherin in samples of the patient's urine and blood serum with time.
13. A product for the prognosis of COPD severity in a patient which comprises means to report the concentration of soluble E-cadherin in a sample of blood serum and/or a sample of urine taken from the patient and a correlation graph which correlates FEV1 with soluble E-cadherin concentration.
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14. A product according to claim 13 wherein means to report the concentration of soluble E-cadherin comprises an anti-soluble E-cadherin antibody.
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15. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 12 wherein the correlation graph correlates FEV1 (as a percentage of the predicted value) with soluble E-cadherin concentration.
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